

MEMORANDUM - VIA EMAIL

DATE: February 16, 2009

TO: Mr. Jesse Robinson – Kentucky Division of Water
Jesse.Robinson@ky.gov

FROM: Ron Thomas and Brad Anderson
Redwing Ecological Services, Inc.

SUBJECT: **Response to Request for Additional Information
Weller Farm Expansion
Bullitt County, Kentucky
Redwing Project 08-033
KDOW AI No. 102772**

On behalf of the Salt River Development Company, LLC (SRDC), Redwing Ecological Services, Inc. (Redwing) respectfully submits this additional information to the Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) in support of Water Quality Certification (WQC) for the Weller Farm Expansion project.

A brief history of the project includes:

- SRDC submittal of the joint Individual 404 and Individual 401 WQC Application (11/5/08)
- KDOW request for additional information (12/3/08)
- SRDC response to KDOW request, including: payment of review fee; verification of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional determination for the site; submittal of a sediment and erosion control plan; and substitution of wetland establishment at Frank E. Simon Park in Shepherdsville for the originally-proposed purchase of mitigation bank credits (12/30/08)
- KDOW request for additional information regarding the proposed changes in wetland mitigation (email of 1/13/09)

The proposed mitigation for the entire Weller Farm Expansion project is presented below, in order to clarify all changes that have occurred since submittal of the original permit application.

WELLER FARM EXPANSION – MITIGATION PLAN

The Weller Farm Expansion project will result in unavoidable impacts to 0.94 acre of wetland and 915 feet of intermittent stream. As such, the mitigation plan includes both stream and wetland components.

STREAM MITIGATION

Compensatory mitigation for impacts to 915 feet of intermittent stream will be provided through payment of \$109,800 to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) In-Lieu Stream Fund. This fee includes a markup of 20% to account for temporal loss.

WETLAND MITIGATION

The proposed impacts to 0.94 acre of poor quality wetland are proposed to be mitigated at a 2:1 ratio. Thus, 1.9 acre of wetland mitigation will be required. SRDC proposes to provide the required mitigation at the Shepherd's Crossing Mitigation Site in Shepherdsville, Kentucky. The Weller Farm mitigation constitutes 1.9 acres of the total 9.5-acre mitigation area that is being developed, 6.0 acres of which are required for the Shepherd's Crossing Mitigation project. This wetland mitigation was approved by the USACE in a meeting on February 9, 2009, with the stipulation that no other projects would utilize the remaining mitigation area (1.6 acres of excess to remain) and that the owner/permittee of Weller Farms Expansion (SRDC) be ultimately responsible for the successful establishment of the 1.9 acres of wetland habitat at the Shepherd's Crossing Mitigation Site.

The Shepherd's Crossing Mitigation project (KDOW AI No. 33460) required the establishment of 6.0 acres of wetland along the Salt River floodplain within the City of Shepherdsville's Frank E. Simon Park. However, construction/grading, completed in September 2008, resulted in the establishment of 9.5 acres of wetland. The site was cover seeded with a native wetland seed mix in September 2008 and planted with bottomland hardwood tree/shrub saplings in December 2008 at a rate of approximately 60 stems per acre. Remaining implementation activities to be completed in 2009 include planting of 1,750 live wetland plugs in the wetter portions of the site in the spring. The five-year monitoring period will begin in 2009 and continue through 2013.

The mitigation is based on the *Revised Stream and Wetland Mitigation Plan* prepared by Eco-Tech, Inc., dated November 1, 2004, which was approved by the USACE and KDOW. With the exception of the final acreage total, implementation generally followed the approved plan and resulted in the creation of two wetland areas. The eastern wetland area totals 3.3 acres and the western wetland area totals 6.2 acres. The as-built topographic map for this wetland mitigation site, as well as documentation of mitigation implementation, is included in the *2008 Annual Report*, which is attached as a pdf to this email. The monitoring of this 1.9 acres of wetland mitigation, which is to be utilized as compensation for impacts at the Weller Farm Expansion site, will be conducted following the approved Eco-Tech plan and annual monitoring reports will be submitted to the KDOW and USACE under the Weller Farm Expansion project. SRDC understands that the Weller Farm Expansion project will not be released until the required five-year monitoring period has been successfully completed, documenting the establishment of 1.9 acres of wetland habitat.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you on this project and hope that this additional information will allow you to proceed with issuance of WQC. Please call Ron Thomas or Brad Anderson at (502) 625-3009 with any questions or if you need any additional information.

Attachment: 2008 Annual Report – Shepherd's Crossing Mitigation Site (January 5, 2009)